

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 SS-15 ISO-00 INR-07 CIAE-00 SY-05 MCT-01

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:WEDGAR/DGRIMES:BG

APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON

EUR/SOV - JAMES TREICHEL

S/S - MR. BRIDGES

C - JVS MILLINGTON

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P 171605Z SEP 76 ZFF5

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

INFO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

USCOGARD PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 230687 TOSEC 270276

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, UR

SUBJECT: EXPLOSION ABOARD SOVIET VESSEL

REF: STATE 229279

1. ON SEPTEMBER 16, EUR/SOV DEPUTY DIRECTOR EDGAR TOOK OCCASION OF CALL ON OTHER MATTERS BY SOVIET EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY TREPYKHALIN TO CONVEY DEPARTMENT'S REGRET OVER THE INCIDENT DESCRIBED REFTEL, AND TO SAY THAT THERE WOULD BE A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION. (WE HAD ALREADY INFORMED THE EMBASSY OF THE INCIDENT AT OPENING OF BUSINESS.)

2. TREPYKHALIN NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN OTHER SIMILAR INCIDENTS, AND SAID: "PERHAPS YOUR COAST GUARD COULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MORE VIGILANT." EDGAR REPLIED THAT THE SECURITY OF SOVIET

VESSELS IN OUR PORTS IS A MATTER OF CONTINUING CONCERN.

3. FOLLOWING ARE FURTHER DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT: AT 12:15 A.M. ON SEPTEMBER 16, THE PILOT OF THE SOVIET VESSEL "IVAN SHEPATKOV" WHICH WAS DOCKED AT PIER 64 IN PORT ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY NOTICED A DIVER IN THE WATER NEAR THE VESSEL AND REQUESTED ASSISTANCE FROM THE U.S. COAST GUARD.

BEFORE THE COAST GUARD COULD ARRIVE, HOWEVER, A BOMB EXPLODED BELOW THE WATER LINE AT 12:40 A.M. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES AND THE SHIP SUSTAINED MINIMAL DAMAGE. (THE EXPLOSION DID NOT PRODUCE A HOLE IN THE HULL.)

4. THE COAST GUARD IMMEDIATELY BLOCKED OFF THE AREA SURROUNDING THE SHIP AND DISPATCHED DIVING TEAMS TO EXAMINE THE SHIP AND ANOTHER SOVIET VESSEL DOCKED IN THE PORT, THE "SKULTTUR VUCHETICH". THEY DISCOVERED NO OTHER BOMBING DEVICES. THE COAST GUARD ALERTED ALL STATIONS WHERE SOVIET VESSELS WERE DOCKED AND ASKED FOR INCREASED PROTECTION. ALSO, NEW YORK AUTHORITIES WERE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PROTECTION TO SOVIET INSTALLATIONS LOCATED IN NEW YORK.

5. AT 3:00 A.M. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS RECEIVED A CALL FROM A GROUP NAMED THE "OMEGA SEVEN", AN ANTI-COMMUNIST CUBAN ORGANIZATION, WHO CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACT. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOMBING, EXPLOSIVES, SHIPS, INVESTIGATIONS, PORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WEDGAR/DGRIMES:BG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760947/aaaabocg.tel
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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